

At 11 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m., His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Democratic Floor Manager escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President's Cabinet;

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 11 o'clock and 51 minutes a.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1227

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR) at 12 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, October 31, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Today, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session to consider three resolutions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in accordance with 33 U.S.C. §542. The resolutions authorize Corps surveys (or studies) of water resources needs and possible solutions. The Committee adopted the resolutions by voice vote with a quorum present.

Enclosed are copies of the resolutions adopted by the Committee.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

DOCKET 2784: DELAWARE COUNTY AND CHESTER COUNTY STREAMS, PENNSYLVANIA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Delaware River and its tributaries, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York, published as House Document 179, Seventy Third Congress, Second Session, and other pertinent reports, to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable using a comprehensive, watershed systems approach in the interest of ecosystem restoration, flood plain management, flood damage reduction, water quality control, groundwater and subsidence management, comprehensive watershed management, recreation and other allied purposes.

DOCKET 2785: ILLINOIS WATERWAY, ILLINOIS AND INDIANA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Illinois Waterway and Grand Calumet River, Illinois and Indiana, published as House Document No. 677, 79th Congress, Second Session, and other pertinent reports, to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time, regarding possible alternative locations for disposal of dredged material from the Calumet-Sag Channel Modification and Illinois Waterway, Illinois and Indiana.

DOCKET 2786: WHITE RIVER NAVIGATION, ARKANSAS

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army review the report of the Chief of Engineers on White River Navigation to Batesville, Arkansas, dated December 23, 1981, and other pertinent reports, to determine whether modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time, in the interest of navigation, flood control, and environmental restoration including Federally-owned lands within the White River Basin, Arkansas.

DOCKET 2787: VERMILLION HARBOR, OHIO

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army review the report of the Chief of Engineers on Vermillion Harbor published as House Document No. 231, 85th Congress, 1st Session and other pertinent reports, to determine whether changes to the recommendations concerning modifications to the breakwaters contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of flood damage reduction and related purposes in the vicinity of Vermillion Harbor, Ohio.

DOCKET 2788: DUTCHESS COUNTY WATERSHEDS, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Wappinger Creek Watershed, Pleasant Valley, New York, authorized in accordance with Section 212 of the Flood Control Act of 1950 (Public

Law 516), 81st Congress, 2nd Session, and other related reports to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of flood damage reduction, storm damage reduction, environmental restoration, navigation, watershed management, water supply, and other allied purposes, in Dutchess County Watersheds, that drain directly into the Hudson River in Dutchess County, New York.

There was no objection.

□ 1230

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to fifteen 1-minutes per side.

FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY ACT

(Mr. HONDA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Veterans Day, I rise to urge Congress to support the Filipino Veterans Equity Act. This important piece of legislation will restore U.S. veterans status to the surviving soldiers of the 250,000 Filipinos who were called into military service to the United States Armed Forces by President Roosevelt on July 26, 1941.

Of the only 22,000 surviving Filipino World War II veterans, I want to highlight Faustino "Peping" Baclig, who currently resides in Los Angeles, California. Peping was among the 75,000 Filipino and U.S. soldiers subjected to the 90-mile trek from Mariveles to Tarlac, better known as the Bataan Death March. He survived the atrocities of Japanese occupation and fought side by side with the Americans, only to have his service as a U.S. national and a veteran denied by the 1946 Re-scission Act.

We now have a unique moment to undo the injustice of that act and give honor and respect to this brave group of veterans. As Peping tells us, though, "They pay us to die, but they cannot pay us to live." For these men, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act will fulfill a promise we denied them for over 60 years, recognition of a grateful Nation that their service to our country is just as equal as the soldiers with whom they stood shoulder-to-shoulder on field of battle.

FUNDING OUR VETERANS

(Mrs. DRAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, this is day 38. That is 38 days so far that our veterans have not had the use of the increased funding for their benefits and health care. That's \$18.5 million a day not able to be used.

In June, this House passed this appropriation bill with a \$6 billion increase in a bipartisan manner. On September 6, the Senate completed their